



The Polyglot Fall 2019

Academic Year 2018-2019 Brought Many Changes

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It has been a year of updates, additions and changes in the Department of Foreign Languages.

First, after decades of service to Tech, to the department and to her students, Colleen Hays, Ph.D., Associate Professor of French at Tennessee Tech, retired this summer. We all wish her well as she enters this new chapter of her life. A search is currently underway for a new French instructor, who will begin in January.

On a happier note, it is now easier than ever to “double major” at Tennessee Tech. Instead of requiring students to complete a minimum of 150 total credits to earn two degrees, motivated students now only have to complete the actual degree requirements for both majors. This change should make it a little easier for STEM majors - future engineers, nurses, chemists, etc. - and others to add a B.A. in Foreign Languages to their program of study to make them stand out to potential employers and graduate schools.

Our revised “retrocredit” policy also makes it simpler for students to major or minor in



*Martin Sheehan, Ph.D.,
Interim Chair*

French, German or Spanish. If students who studied one of these languages in high school can successfully place into - and complete - an intermediate or advanced-level language course, they can earn up to nine hours of lower-level credit for free. The first step is to take a free placement test here in the Department of Foreign Languages.

We are also proud to announce our new International Studies minor. With the help of Amy Miller in the Study Abroad Office, we developed this minor to encourage students to seek out and then leverage international experiences. Now the process is more streamlined for all students across Tech - in Sociology, History, Psychology, Education, STEM programs, etc. - to take courses abroad and to have those experiences count toward their

programs of study. The life-changing impact that studying abroad has on students cannot be overstated, and we are happy that the classrooms of the world are easier to access thanks to this new minor.

Another benefit for our language students is a recent update in our course catalog. Now students can study abroad, learn languages that we do not offer at Tech (such as Italian, Korean, Arabic or Gaelic) and have those courses translate into our “Elementary Foreign Language Study” sequence (FLST 1011, 1013, 1021 and 1023) here at Tech. We hope that students use their FLST credits toward our new minor in International Studies.

Speaking of minors, the numbers of French, German and Spanish minors continue to grow at a fast pace. We now have more than 90 Tech students pursuing a minor in a foreign language, and that number keeps climbing!

It’s a great time to study French, German or Spanish at Tennessee Tech. Check out our web site at www.tntech.edu/cas/fl or come visit us in person.

Departmental and Club News

FL Scholarships Awarded for 2019-2020 Academic Year

In addition to several scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen and transfer FL majors, three foreign language scholarships were awarded in April 2019 for the 2019-2020 academic

year. **Nancy Rose Webb**, a German major, received the Fredrick Heina Memorial Scholarship. **Victoria Chaplin**, who is seeking a B.S. in International Business and Cultures (IBAC) and a

B.A. in German, and **Olivia Mason**, a Spanish major working toward teaching licensure, each received an **Alberta Campana Memorial Scholarship**. Congratulations to all recipients!

German 2020 Students Explore *Der Struwwelpeter*



Jordan Wright and Katrina Mauk, who tied as overall winner for their posters

Students in Julia Gruber's GERM 2020 class last spring studied *Der Struwwelpeter* by Heinrich Hoffmann, one of the oldest and bloodiest German children's books. Participation in Tennessee Tech's Undergraduate Research Day was incorporated into the class; four students won awards.

The class culminated in a performance of *Der neue Struwwelpeter*, a play based on Hoffmann's book. Students developed the book into a theater script. The performance took place in the Backdoor Playhouse on April 20.

Gruber's redesign of the class was made possible



through a Tennessee Tech EDGE Creative Inquiry Grant.



Poster designed by student Amadeus Gaby for the performance of Der Neue Struwwelpeter

Students Code for Wikipedia, Produce Podcasts

Martin Sheehan introduced two new technology projects in his German classes during 2018-2019.

Sheehan's GERM 3010 students completed a Wikipedia project in which they learned skills in coding, technical writing and peer-review research. Students wrote and edited German-language

entries on subjects like right-wing extremism in Murfreesboro and the biographies of Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Additionally, Sheehan's GERM 3020 students collaboratively designed, recorded and edited informative podcasts about current

social, political and cultural events in the German-speaking world. The podcasts focused on the city of Aachen, religious freedom in Bavaria and Germany's stance on autonomous drones capable of lethal force.

Both projects were completed in German.

Avant-Garde (French Club)

Avant-Garde had another activity-packed year!

In the fall, club members traveled to Sparta to make crêpes with the French students at White County High School, held several conversation hours and enjoyed the 8th annual Zombie Potluck at Halloween. They celebrated the end of the semester with a trip to the Frist in Nashville to see the exhibit "Paris 1900: City of Entertainment," followed by lunch at Château West.



Rebecca Franey and Caleb McAfee making crêpes at Livingston Academy

Spring brought more conversation hours and another successful crêpe-making

session, this time with students at Livingston Academy. The club also participated in Tennessee Tech's Window on the World international festival, where they sold macarons and distributed information about the French-speaking world.

Avant-Garde closed the school year with a meal at Father Tom's Pub, where French-trained Executive Chef Steve Ford prepared a special dinner showcasing Paris bistro cuisine.

Faculty Advisor:
Debbie Barnard, Ph.D.
dbarnard@tntech.edu

Amigos (Spanish Club)

Amigos continued to promote knowledge and appreciation of Hispanic cultures among the campus community and the community at large. The club organized several events during the 2018-2019 academic year which were inspired by these core values.

One of the most important

ongoing activities is the Spanish conversation hour. This practice helps beginners and advanced students improve their oral skills in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, and provides an opportunity for Tech students to become engaged with the community.

The club also organized and

hosted other events to celebrate Hispanic cultures: movie nights, *Día de los Muertos*, *Carnaval*, and its usual events at Window on the World.

The club looks forward to continuing to work for increased understanding among the cultures that intermingle in the U.S.

Faculty Advisor:
Manuel Villalba, Ph.D.
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New Members Inducted into Alpha Mu Gamma in April 2019

Eighteen new members were inducted into the *Eta Psi* Chapter of *Alpha Mu Gamma*, a national foreign language society.

Guest speaker at the event was Stephen Henson, 2012 Tennessee Tech Foreign Languages graduate in both French and Spanish. He currently teaches French at Livingston Academy.



French

Hannah Cowan

German

Harrison Conner Eldridge
Mikaylee Flood
Lyndsey Leitte Wall
Jordan Chantel Wright

Spanish

John Wyatt Allen
Emily Alligood
Shelby Clement

Savannah Mackenzie Cornwell
Morgan Dearnbarger
McKenzie Graybill*
Sarah Greer
Caroline Adele Hunter*
Adam M. Kirby
Olivia Mason
Blaine Christopher Swieder*
Sarah Visneski
*also qualified in French

Faculty

Michael Olsen

Senior Accomplishments

FL Undergraduates Prepare for Graduate School

Helping students prepare for graduate school is one of the core goals of the Department of Foreign Languages. Two of the main ways to achieve this goal include providing research experience and assisting students in learning how to search for the best graduate opportunities.

Two outstanding foreign language majors, Shelby Clement and McKenzie Graybill, were selected to participate in the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research that was held last April at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. The judges considered that their papers, "Street Art in Spain" (Clement) and "A Psychoanalytic Approach to the Works of Francisco de Goya y Lucientes" (Graybill)



Shelby Clement at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research with her poster, "Street Art in Spain"

demonstrated a unique contribution to the academic field of Hispanic Studies.

Clement is a senior who is working toward a B.A. in Spanish and a B.S. in Psychology. Graybill, who is earning a B.A. in Spanish and a B.S. in Communica-

tion, is also a senior.

Another Tech senior, Gabriel Houle, was accepted into the one-year Master's program at the *Universidad de Alcalá* in Spain. The university also offered him a teaching assistant fellowship. Houle is pursuing a minor in Spanish.

Eight FL Majors Complete Senior Capstones

Here are the students, their topics and the faculty with whom they worked for their Senior Capstone projects:

Emily Alligood (w/Villalba), *El genero de las comedias románticas en el cine Mexicano contemporaneo* [Chick Flick Movies in Mexican Contemporary Cinema]

Gabriela Dominguez (w/ Groundland), *El vestir y el desvestir como marcos de identidad en Don Quijote* [Dressing and Fashion as Identity Markers in *Don Quijote*]

Katie Hall (w/Villalba), *La movida madrileña. Cultura, valores y ética* [The Madrid Scene: Culture, Values and Ethics]

Brian Kilgore (w/ Sheehan), *Bierbrauen in der deutschen Kultur: damals, heute, morgen* [Beer Brewing in the German Culture: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow]

Sandra Miguel (w/ Groundland), *Un analisis de la opresión indigena en Guatemala* [Indigenous Oppression in Guatemala]

Alejandra Tohalino (w/ Barnard), *Georges Meliès et la Première Guerre Mondiale* [Georges Meliès and the First World War]

Kate Trebing (w/Barnard), *L'influence de la baguette sur la cuisine postcoloniale de Algerie et du Vietnam* [The Baguette's Influence on Post-colonial Cuisine in Algeria and Vietnam]

Jessica Vazquez (w/Olsen), *Los niños son el futuro* [Children Are the Future]

Best wishes to these new Tennessee Tech FL alumni!

FRENCH

FREN 1010/1020: Elementary French I/II

Communicative and student-centered language courses for beginners

FREN 2020: Intermediate French II

Essentials of French, developing listening and reading comprehension, oral and written communication and cultural understanding

FREN 2510: French Culture & Civilization

Intro to French cultural and intellectual history, arts, geography and government of France and to social characteristics of the French people. *Taught in English; no background in French required*

FREN 3200: Business French

Business vocabulary, readings and conversations in French on various business topics and on culture as it affects business interactions and practices in social and formal situations

FREN 3510: France: Country & People

Intro to the history, arts, geography and government of France and to the social characteristics of the French people. *Taught in English; no background in French required. Credit will not be given for both FREN 2510 and FREN 3510*

GERMAN

GERM 1020: Elementary German II

Communicative and student-centered language course for beginners

GERM 2020: Intermediate German II

Essentials of German, developing listening and reading comprehension, oral and written communication skills and cultural understanding

GERM 3020: Oral Communication in German

Speaking and listening with additional practice in writing and reading while exploring cultural topics

GERM 3112: German Civilization & Culture

Intro to Germany, its history and products of its culture. *Taught in German*

SPANISH

SPAN 1010/1020: Elementary Spanish I/II

Communicative and student-centered language courses for beginners

SPAN 2010/2020: Intermediate Spanish I/II

Essentials of Spanish, developing listening and reading comprehension, oral and written communication and cultural understanding

SPAN 3010: Written Communication in Spanish

Grammatical expansion and analysis, study of idiomatic expressions and composition

SPAN 3020: Oral Communication in Spanish

Speaking and listening with additional practice in writing and reading while exploring cultural topics

SPAN 3200: Spanish for Business I

Business vocabulary and readings in Spanish on various professional topics and on culture as it affects business interactions and practices

SPAN 4110: Culture & Civilization of Spain

Lectures, readings and discussions in Spanish on the culture and civilization of Spain

SPAN 4810: Intro to Spanish Translation

Intro to different aspects of the craft of translation from Spanish to English and English to Spanish, including practical translation experience

SEED 4125/5125: Materials & Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages

An introduction to the practical application of foreign language acquisition and foreign language teaching theories to the foreign language classroom. *For students working toward state licensure*

SPRING 2020 CLASSES*

TENNESSEE TECH DEPT. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES



**All classes taught in French, German or Spanish unless otherwise noted*

Did you know . . .

. . . that we offer culture classes taught in English that count as lower-level gen-ed humanities courses?

. . . that you can major or minor in French, German or Spanish; major in International Business & Cultures; or minor in International Studies?

FL Faculty and Alumni Highlights for 2018-2019

In addition to teaching classes, advising students, overseeing FL club activities and performing other duties, faculty members do extensive research, make presentations at conferences and publish in professional journals and books. Here are just a few of their activities during the past academic year.



Debbie Barnard was invited to speak to more than 40 students at Livingston

Academy about the importance of studying French. She also organized and moderated the first Tennessee World Affairs Council International Jobs and Careers Panel held at Tennessee Tech. The panel included professionals who have worked internationally in a wide range of fields, from military intelligence and diplomacy to shipping and manufacturing. Panelists shared their own experiences and gave tips and advice on how to launch an international career, and on what to expect from working globally, before taking questions from the audience.



Mark Groundland traveled to New York City in October 2018 to participate in the executive board meeting of the MLA International Bibliography. The executive board advises on the direction and scope of this essential research tool. He was appointed to serve on this

board for a three-year term. He is a Distinguished Bibliographer, which indicates that he has been indexing journal articles for the MLA bibliography for more than 20 years. In April 2019, he presented "The Moriscos Episodes of Don Quijote (II, 54, 63-65i) and Contemporary Political Discourse on Immigration: A Comparative Analysis" at the 16th Annual Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages and Literatures in Savannah, Georgia.



Julia Gruber received an EDGE Creative Inquiry Grant to redesign her German 2020 class. Part of the redesign involved the incorporation and close reading of one of the oldest German children's books, Hoffman's *Der Struwwelpeter*. Students submitted abstracts for a poster and participated in the Undergraduate Research Day; four students won awards.



Michael Olsen presented his research on challenges faced while taking the edTPA during residency at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention and World Languages Expo. He was also invited to Tianjin, China to present a talk on integrating second language research and language teaching at the Forum on Empowering

Small and Medium Sized Training Institutions through the Internet. A co-authored book chapter of his, "Vocabulary Coverage and Lexical Characteristics in Second Language Spanish Textbooks," was also published. In April 2019 he was inducted into *Alpha Mu Gamma*, a national foreign language honor society, as a faculty member.



Martin Sheehan presented digital humanities research at a German Studies conference in Pittsburgh: "*Wir wollen sehen: Visualizing Networks in der Hofmeister (1774)*." He also was a workshop leader at The Humanities and Technology (THAT) Camp at Vanderbilt in 2018; the workshop was entitled "Introduction to Network Analysis." In January 2019 he submitted the manuscript for *Affective Frames: Photographs in German Cinema*, a co-edited volume (along with Carrie Collenberg-Gonzalez, Ph.D., of Portland State University). Scholars from Ohio State University, Vanderbilt University, Bowdoin College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Texas A&M University are featured in the volume.



Manuel Villalba has been exploring new intellectual horizons. In addition to his expertise in Hispanic Studies, this year he has studied

different aspects of critical theory. He joined sociology scholars at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference and participated in a fruitful interdisciplinary debate on the political aspect of the Frankfurt School. In addition, he was honored by the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University Of Kentucky, which organized a symposium presentation of his book on the Americo Castro/Jorge Guillen correspondence.

Trebing Chosen for TAPIF



Kate Trebing (French '18) was selected for the French government's Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) for 2019-2020. She is currently teaching in eastern France.

The TAPIF program is a joint initiative sponsored by the French Ministry of Education and coordinated by the French Embassy.



Pinzur Receives Fellowship at U of Wisconsin

Beth Pinzur (Spanish and History '15) received the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. She is currently working toward a Master of Arts in Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies at UW's Madison campus.